

Career Exploration

Now you have a list of careers you find interesting. That is great, but how do you choose between them? What you need to do is find out all you can about these occupations and decide whether these careers would work for you now that you know all sorts of things about yourself. The first step to this process is to learn about the world of work. As you can probably tell, the world of work includes all of the jobs and careers that are out there. Your list may seem overwhelming, and you may be wondering just how you can learn about all of these careers. There are two basic ways to learn. The first is through research, and the second is through experience including talking to people. It is usually most effective and enjoyable for people to learn about occupations through both methods. Many people choose to do some research in books and on the internet first, and then they talk to people in the fields they are interested in.

Researching Occupations: Since you are ready to research careers, the first thing you should do is visit the Career Resource Library at Minnesota State Mankato. Mark some time off on your calendar and come on over. Ask a Library Assistant or staff member to help you. You'll find the information you need in following the resources. Many of these resources are available online as well. They are all linked on the CDC Web site at <http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/students/career/exploration.html>. Use the sheet on page 37 as a guide on what information to look for.

Occupational Outlook Handbook: This book is updated every two years and has information on over 270 jobs, which covering about 90% of all workers. This is a great resource to start with because it includes the nature of work, working conditions, employment numbers, training needed, job outlook and earnings for these occupations. It also mentions related occupations and sources of additional information. You can find occupations by using the index in the back, or by looking at sections of related occupations. This resource is also available on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>.

O*NET: The Occupational Information Network (O*NET Online) is provided by the U.S. Department of Labor. This resource has extensive information on many careers and is only available on the Internet. Click on "Find Occupations" at <http://online.onetcenter.org/> to access this information.

What Can I Do With a Major In...?: This binder and website located at <http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/students/undeclared/whatmajor/> has information on many majors and what sorts of careers relate to these majors. This resource also can give you strategies for finding employment in these areas. It is a favorite of students using the Career Resource Library.

DISCOVER Computer System: You may have worked with the DISCOVER system when you were doing the self-assessment portion of your career exploration process. DISCOVER also has a wealth of information on occupations. You can search for the careers you are researching, and find much of what you need to know about occupations. E-mail cdcdiscover@mnsu.edu to get instructions to use the system.

MnCareers: This resource is updated yearly and includes a wealth of information specific to Minnesota. Hundreds of occupations are sorted into related sections and wages, occupational growth, and employment numbers are included. Visit this site online at <http://www.iseek.org/mncareers/>.

Books and Journals for specific careers and populations: We have hundreds of books, many of which are specific to occupations. Our books are divided into the six colleges at MSU, so it is easy to find resources on related occupations. We have over 500 books in the **Career Resource Library** and you can check most of them out for up to one week with your MavCard. Some popular titles include:

[Cool Careers for Dummies](#)

[150 Careers in the Health Care Field](#)

[Opportunities in Nutrition Careers](#)

[Jobs for English Majors and Other Smart People](#)

[Careers in Marketing](#)

[101 Career Alternatives for Teachers](#)

[Forensic Science Careers](#)

[Opportunities in Psychology Careers](#)

Hot Jobs: Students often wonder what jobs are “hot” or expected to grow. This site has information on the jobs expected to grow the fastest from 2004-2014. <http://www.bls.gov/emp/emptab3.htm>. This information is interesting and can be very helpful in making wise career decisions but be careful. Remember, reports on future employment levels and “hot jobs” are just predictions. Many factors can change unexpectedly, which may make predictions inaccurate. Also, think about what careers you might enjoy and be skilled at. A “Hot Job” isn’t very hot if you hate it!

Graduate School: If one or more of your career possibilities involves graduate school, we have information in our library to help you accomplish your educational goals.

Information on Majors at Minnesota State Mankato: You can look in your Undergraduate Bulletin for information and this information can also be found online at <http://www.mnsu.edu/supersite/academics/bulletins/undergraduate/>. It is a great idea to go through this bulletin and make a list of all of the majors that look interesting to you.

Minnesota State Mankato Graduate Follow-Up Study: Staff from the Career Development Center contact students within one year after graduation to find out if they are employed and where they are working. You can access this information, which includes job titles and employers of graduates by major, in the **Career Resource Library** or at this Web site – <http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/resources/statistics/>

Career Development and Job Search Links Site: Check out our Web site at <http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/students/jobsearch/links.html>. We have many links for exploring occupations.